

# UNV Newsletter

August 2009

## In This Issue

- 1 [Message from Bengt](#)
- 2 [Home Headlines](#)
- 3 [Bonn Bulletin](#)
- 4 [Meet your new colleague](#)
- 5 [Notice Board](#)
- 6 [UN Calendar](#)
- 7 [Upcoming Holidays](#)
- 8 [From the Doctor's office](#)

## Bengt's Missive

Following an absence of three years, UNV India is delighted to re-launch the UNV newsletter. The primary objective of this newsletter is to keep UNV volunteers and their respective host agencies informed of various initiatives, activities, projects and policy decisions. It also brings together UNV volunteers working across India from districts to states and the national capital. We see it as a good platform for UNV volunteers to share their experiences and knowledge about their work on the ground. It will help to inspire people to learn how volunteerism across and irrespective of barriers such as age, race, ethnicity, and gender is benefiting society at large and the volunteers themselves with a good deal of satisfaction and experiences.

I have personally been privileged throughout my long field-based career with UNDP, to serve in countries with considerable UNV contribution towards development goals. As a newcomer in India, I am very pleased to yet again to be associated with a large and vibrant UNV community drawing from the talents of primarily national UNV volunteers working across a broad spectrum of important activities. To ensure that the UNV newsletter remains a true reflection of the successes and realities on the ground, I request all UNV volunteers to contribute to the extent possible to sustain the efforts made by UNV Country Office Team to publish the newsletter.

## Home Headlines

### STRIVE beyond Teach India

The Teach India campaign of 2008 was unprecedented in its mandate and scope to take primary education to the most disadvantaged and marginalized through volunteerism. Using this momentum, UNV, in association with a range of partners, is initiating STRIVE – Support to Poverty Reduction through the Integration of Volunteer-based Approaches in Primary Education.

STRIVE will be an enhanced platform for the participation and involvement of citizens, especially youth, towards achieving the Millennium Development Agenda of universal access to education and inclusive growth.

### Task Force for IVD 2009 formed

Early preparations for International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2009 are underway. A task force has been formed through discussions with an informal network of volunteer-involving organizations (VIOs).

Members include representatives from the private sector and non-governmental organizations. The primary mandate of the group will be to formulate a plan of action for IVD with a focus on climate change.



Initial STRIVE partners meeting held at UNDP India, New Delhi © Krishna Raj/UNV India 2009

### Project Orientation: Capacity Development for District Planning

UNV volunteers are being deputed to district administrations in 30 districts as District Support Officers. A seven-day orientation programme was organized at UNDP India, New Delhi in June to lay out the objectives of the project 'Capacity Development for District Planning'. The central focus of the orientation was preparation for the role that the UNV volunteers will assume to achieve the outputs of the project as well as the outcomes of the UN convergence programme as a whole.

The orientation sessions were interactive. Roles plays, group discussions and some lectures helped the UNV volunteers to clarify their doubts and form a clear understanding of the issues that could arise in the field and the best possible ways to address them. A tentative work plan was prepared at the end of the orientation based on the project's Annual Work Plan.



UNV volunteers posted as District Support Officers in the District Planning project underwent a seven-day orientation in June © UNDP India 2009

## Bonn Bulletin

### Volunteering for our planet

Headquarters has announced that UNV's theme for IVD 2009 is "Volunteering for our planet". The environment is a major focus of the UN's development agenda.

UNV's intervention in this focus area is driven by the programme's global recognition of the role of volunteerism in environment protection and General Assembly resolutions, as well as the by the UNDP Executive Board calling on UNV to contribute to the global environmental and climate change agenda.

This year is a crucial year in the international effort to address climate change, culminating with the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, 7-18 December. It is timely to focus IVD activities on volunteer efforts in responding to the climate change crisis and to environmental issues.

"...over the years volunteers have made a significant impact in building the understanding of environmental issues and in taking action to combat climate change."

Flavia Pensieri  
Executive Coordinator, UNV



Rajat Roy is the Project Associate in New Delhi

## Meet Rajat Roy: the determined Young Professional

Rajat Roy, a Social Worker from the Vishva Bharti University in West Bengal, began his career as a Young Professional (YP). Under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development, the YP scheme is a Government of India initiative that aims to inculcate professionalism in the development sector. As a YP at the District Rural Development Agency in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, Rajat oversaw the implementation of projects in the livelihood and watershed sectors in the district.

Rajat's first assignment as a UNV volunteer was in April 2007 in a project within the Democratic Governance unit – Strengthening State Plans for Human Development. Now he has moved to the 'District Planning' project within the same unit in New Delhi. "My present UNV responsibility will provide me an opportunity to work at national level and utilize my earlier experience for preparation of efficient and inclusive District planning," says Rajat Roy.

## Notice Board

### H1N1: Swine Flu

Do not panic: WHO has declared a pandemic because of the geographic spread of the virus and not due to its severity.

Symptoms: includes fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, chills and fatigue.

Prevention: it is important to wash your hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to face or to other people and cleaning hard surfaces like door handles frequently using a normal cleaning product.

Previous instances of Flu Pandemics:

1918 – Caused by a form of the H1N1 strain of flu, it is estimated that up to 40% of the world's population were infected, and more than 50 million people died, with young adults particularly affected.

1957 – Caused by a human form of the virus, H2N2, combining with a mutated strain found in wild ducks. The impact of the pandemic was minimized by rapid action by health authorities, who identified the virus, and made vaccine available speedily.

1968 – An outbreak first detected in Hong Kong, and caused by a strain known as H3N2.

Source: BBC News



Always close your nose and mouth while sneezing or coughing.



Wash your hands frequently to avoid the spread of virus



### 2009 Asia Pacific Human Development Fellowships

Applications are now open for the 2009 Asia Pacific Human Development Fellowships. There are two types of Fellowships to apply for - Media or Academic - to support building of Human Development capacity among nationals from programme countries.

The theme for the Media Fellowship is 'Gender' and the theme for the Academic Fellowship is 'Climate Change'.

Learn more about the Fellowship Programme and download the two brochures under the "What's New in Asia Pacific" section on the following webpage (<http://www.undprcc.lk>).

Deadline: 1 September 2009

## UN Calendar

World Population Day	Jul 11
International Day of the World's Indigenous People	Aug 9
International Day of Democracy	Sept 15
International Day of Non-Violence	Oct 2

## Upcoming Official Holidays

Idu'l Fitr	Sept 21
Dusshera	Sept 28

## Tips from the Doctor's office

### Know your work style

Each of us has a combination of different individual working styles. Understanding how you work may help you work better. Find out your style:

**The Always Decisive Style:** This style often springs from some early career training where decisiveness was valued.

**The Too Busy Style:** This style belongs to the ambitious and consequently busy.

**The Know-It-All:** These are the office Princesses who appear to know more than others about a particular subject.

**The Too Nice Style:** Known also as People Pleasers and much of the population suffers from it. They are so nice ... dogs come up and pet them! While these people are easy to like, they can be difficult personalities to deal with.

**The Moody:** Some people are dominated by their moods, and the calculation of the day is whether or not it is safe to approach them about some touchy issue.

**The Hardcore:** is hostile and intimidating. They always have to be right and will charge like angry bulls if you challenge or cross them.

**The Whiner:** sees everything negatively. They complain, whine, act defeated and dismiss every solution as you bring it up.

### JULY 2009

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### AUGUST

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### SEPTEMBER 2009

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